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MICHAEL O. SCHEINBERGQ8

003/005

Attorney Docket No.: F069-2

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.: 09/781,125

ART UNIT: 2881

APPLICANT: Robert L. Gerlach et al.

EXAMINER: Bernard E. Souw

FILING DATE: 02/08/01

TITLE: Multi-Column FIB for Nanofabrication Applications

APPLICANTS' COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT REGARDING REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of the application.

Applicants note that not all of the limitations recited in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance are in all the allowed claims, and the recited limitations are not to be read into claims that do not contain those limitations.

The Examiner states that dependent claims 2-25, 28 and 30-342 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on the independent claim 1. Applicants note that this does not imply that the dependent claims are not also separately patentable for additional reasons.

While applicants agree that the claims are allowable, applicants submit that the claim scope is defined by the claims themselves, and applicants do not acquiesce in any limitations

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On 08/11/2004

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Name: Margarita Marquez-Escalona



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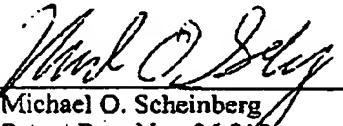
Attorney Docket No.: F069-2

expressed or implied by the Examiners reasons for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/11/04

By:


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